850. A provision was made in the Draft Second Five-Year Plan for the expansion of steel production by the Mysore Iron and Steel Works to one lakh tons by 1960-61. The total estimated outlay provided in the Plan for the Schemes of the Works is six crores of rupees.

851. The Government of India ordered that the two Schemes included in the Draft Second Five-Year Plan (1) setting up an Alloy and Tool Steel Plant and (2) Stainless Steel Plant, be deleted from the expansion programme of the Works, as decided by the Planning Commission.

852. Government have declared that the Iron and Steel Industry in the State to be a Public Utility Service for the purpose of the Industrial Disputes Act 1947 upto end of June 1956.

853. The relationship between the Management and the Labour was cordial. Sanction was accorded to the construction of 20 labour blocks of six units at the Mines at a total cost of Rs. 2,30,500 and for the construction of 78 labour and staff quarters at Bhadravati at an estimated cost of Rs. 5,71,474 and for effecting improvements to water supply system in Hutha Colony at an estimated cost of Rs. 1·32 lakhs.

(iii) **Textiles.**

854. The Department has been executing the schemes for the development of the Handloom and Khadi Industry during the last three years financed by the Government of India, in addition to carrying on its normal activities.

855. Out of the total grant and loan of Rs. 24·36 lakhs made available by the Government of India to the State Government, an expenditure of Rs. 15·71 lakhs was incurred.

856. One thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven weavers were brought within the co-operative sector, thus increasing the strength of looms from 19,063 to 21,646 by advancing loans towards share capital at Rs. 7-8-0 per weaver.

857. Grant of interest free loans to 85 out of 122 'Weavers' Co-operative Societies enabled them to produce 848 bales of yarn of the value of Rs. 6,00,203 and fabrics of the value of Rs. 2,53,192.

TRADE AND INDUSTRIES

858. Thirty Emporia were started in important centres and a mobile van functioning as a Mobile Emporium was also put into operation during the year.

859. Various improved handloom equipment and accessories were supplied to the weavers co-operative societies costing Rs. 50,000.

860. During the year, the 3rd All-India Handloom Week was celebrated from 19 to 26th February 1956. In connection with celebrations, an exhibition had been arranged throughout the week. The sales of handloom cloth during the week was very encouraging as a result of a special rebate of two annas per rupee allowed on the sales.

861. The Handloom Research and Designing Centre which started in the year 1952, manufactured and supplied rebands for the award of "Bharat Ratna" and "Padma Vibhushana" medals for which the Government of India had placed special orders with the Centre.

862. The Government Wool Spinning Centre, Kolar, continued to manufacture hand-spun and hand-woven kamblies during the year.

863. During the year, a triennial scheme for intensification of khadi activities was launched in the Badanval area. The production of khadi during the year was nearly four or five times the level reached during the previous years.

864. An Ambar Charka Parishramalaya was started in December 1955 as an experimental and data collection centre financed from the Khadi and Village Industries Board. In this Centre 300 people were trained with 60 Ambar Charakas.

Government Silk Weaving Factory, Mysore.

865. The production and sales in the Factory were 65,570 yards of silk and Rs. 7,76,156 respectively.

(iv) Posts and Telegraphs.

866. The number of Post Offices in the State at the beginning of the year was 1,111 (1,036), and the number of Post Offices opened during the year was 91. One hundred and eight post letter boxes were newly planted in villages during the year. In addition to these, Public Call Offices were opened in eight important towns in the State.